

REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 29, 2006, and in accordance with the interview courteously granted to the Applicants' representatives on August 9, 2006. Claims 1, 10, 20 and 33 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 to cover the cost of the RCE and any other fees due in connection with this Response.

An Interview Summary record for the interview has not been received.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 12, 14 to 24 and 37 to 44 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,511,375 to Kaminkow.

Kaminkow discloses:

a gaming device bonus round that contains a plurality of groups each having a plurality of selections that the player can pick and receive an award. The groups and selections form a theme that provides enjoyment and excitement to the player. The game enables the player to pick a predetermined number of selections from each group. After the player picks from each selection group, the game uncovers, reveals and awards an award hidden underneath and the awards of selections that the player did not choose. The bonus round includes audio and visual displays, in accordance with the game theme, that either direct or follow along with the player's progress of the bonus round. As the player proceeds through the bonus round, the game accumulates the awards and displays the accumulation at the end of the round.

The game preferably enables a player to have a number of picks which is less than the total number of selections. For example, the game can enable the player to choose 3 of the 4 shapes from the group 52, 1 of the 2 shapes from the group 54, and 2 of the 3 shapes from the group 56 and 2 of the 4 shapes from the group 58. The present invention could alternatively enable the player to choose all or none of the selections in a group, but preferably, the game enables the player to choose at least one but less than all the selections from any given group.

Applicants amended the claims to include the claim language discussed during the interview. As discussed during the interview, Kaminkow does not anticipate amended Claim 1. Specifically, Kaminkow does not anticipate a gaming device

including the following combination of elements: a game operable upon a wager, a display device, a first selection group including a plurality of first selections adapted to be displayed by the display device at least one award indicator adapted to be displayed by the display device after one of the first selections is picked, a second selection group including a plurality of second selections, at least one award indicator adapted to be displayed by the display device after one of the second selections is picked and a number of second selection picks in the second selection group, wherein the number of second selection picks is determined, at least in part, by a value associated with at least one of the first selections which is picked.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over Kaminkow and is condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 to 9 depend from amended Claim 1 and are patentably distinguished over Kaminkow for the reasons stated with respect to Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10, 12, 14 to 24, 26 to 35 and 37 to 44 are patentably distinguished over Kaminkow for similar reasons to the reasons presented with respect to amended Claim 1 and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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